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| Project Title: | Lives of Passion and Paradox: Josh and His Peers |
| Abstract: I propose to use the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Short-Term Fellowship to complete an annotated English translation and critical commentary of Shabbir Hasan Khan Josh Malihabadi’s autobiography, Yadon ki barat (Procession of Memories). For the past forty years, this 800-page tome has featured prominently in debates concerning gender, religion, sexuality, class, nationalism, and language in South Asia. In his autobiography, Josh not only narrates the story of his life, which began in a prominent landholding family in 1894 and ended in the nascent state of Pakistan in 1982, but he also orients his readers toward an understanding of Muslim cultures contrary to the conventional understanding of Islam in South Asia. In the annotations and critical commentary I will enlarge the frame of references in Yadon ki barat, opening up spaces in which to reappraise the narratives of the self and society in the light of Perso-Urdu aesthetics. | |